

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2004/007196 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: B32B 27/32, G09F 3/02
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB2003/002890
- (22) International Filing Date: 4 July 2003 (04.07.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
0216052.1 10 July 2002 (10.07.2002) GB
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): AR-JOBEX LIMITED [GB/GB]; Stephenson Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 4NS (GB).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): DALGLEISH, David, Thomson [GB/GB]; Two Chimneys, 5 Cambridge Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 9HN (GB).
- (74) Agent: RAYNOR, Simon, Mark; Urquhart-Dykes & Lord, Midsummer House, 413C Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3BN (GB).
- (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
- with international search report
  - before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SYNTHETIC PAPER LABEL

(57) Abstract: A tamper-evident labelling material includes a base layer of synthetic paper that is printable on its upper surface, and an adhesive layer on the lower surface of the base layer. The base layer includes a layer of biaxially-oriented and voided high density polyethylene (HDPE) that has a density of not more than 0.6 cm<sup>-3</sup>.

WO 2004/007196 A1

UDL16.002APC

PATENT

SYNTHETIC PAPER LABEL

- 5 The present invention relates to a synthetic paper label having an external printable surface.

The term "synthetic paper" is used herein and throughout the specification to mean plastics film and sheet products having a feel and printability similar to cellulose paper.

10 It has been recognised that plastics sheet material of this type can provide an improved alternative to paper where durability and toughness are required. Synthetic papers produced from polyolefins have several advantages over other plastics since they offer UV resistance, good tear strength and the ability to be recycled in many post-consumer waste applications. Labels are amongst the established uses of such products.

- 15 In certain labelling applications, it is desirable that the label construction should be such as to reveal any attempt at tampering after it has been applied, i.e. it should be "tamper evident". This is particularly important if the label is to be applied to high value products such as cosmetics, perfumes, fine wines and spirits, or medicines, for example
- 20 to prevent the label being reused on counterfeit goods.

- In order to be fully tamper-evident, the label should exhibit internal cohesive failure if an attempt is made to peel the label off the surface to which it has been applied. Preferably, it should shear through its full thickness, because delamination without accompanying
- 25 shearing through the full thickness of the product could leave the printed surface of the label intact and therefore available for fraudulent purposes. However, a label which delaminates but does not shear as just described would nevertheless represent worthwhile progress in the art.

- 30 It is an object of the invention to provide a synthetic paper tamper-evident labelling material that meets the first, and preferably also the second, of the above-stated requirements.

Accordingly, the present invention provides, in a first aspect, tamper-evident labelling material including a base layer of synthetic paper that is printable on its upper surface, and an adhesive layer on the lower surface of the base layer, characterised in that the base layer includes a layer of biaxially-oriented and voided high density polyethylene (HDPE) that has a density of not more than about  $0.6\text{g cm}^{-3}$ . Preferably, the HDPE material has a density of not more than about  $0.5\text{g cm}^{-3}$ .

In a second aspect, the invention resides in the use in labelling material, which includes a base layer of synthetic paper that is printable on its upper surface and an adhesive layer on its lower surface, for the purpose of imparting tamper-evident properties, of a layer of biaxially-oriented and voided high density polyethylene (HDPE), characterized in that the layer of biaxially-oriented and voided HDPE has a density not more than about  $0.6\text{g cm}^{-3}$ . Preferably, the layer of biaxially-oriented and voided HDPE has a density not more than about  $0.5\text{g cm}^{-3}$ .

We have discovered that there is a strong relationship between the density of the voided HDPE material and its cohesive strength. This is believed to be due to the fact that the density of the HDPE material depends on the number of voids created during the stretching process, a less dense material having a larger number of voids and reduced cohesive strength. We have found that if the density is not more than  $0.6\text{g cm}^{-3}$ , the labelling material has useful tamper-evident properties, with improved tamper-evident properties being provided if the density is not more than  $0.5\text{g cm}^{-3}$ .

The mean cohesive strength of the labelling material, as measured by the tape pull test described below, is preferably not more than about 4N (Newtons) if shearing through the full thickness of the material is to occur when an attempt is made to peel off the label. The mean cohesive strength is more preferably not more than about 3N and even more preferably not more than about 2.5N.

The tape pull test involves measuring the force required to peel off an adhesive tape adhered to the labelling material. The effect of the removal of the tape on the integrity of the labelling material is also observed. The test may conveniently be carried out using 25mm wide transparent tape of the kind supplied for domestic and office use, for example that sold as "Sellotape\* Original" (here and elsewhere in this specification, an

asterisk indicates a proprietary trade mark.). The tape is pressed into contact with the surface of the labelling material by hand (normally in the machine direction, if this is known) and the resulting bond is reinforced by running a 1kg roller over the tape. The tape is then peeled away from the labelling material using a so-called "universal tester"  
5 (for example as supplied by Instron Limited, United Kingdom) at a defined speed (typically 250 or 500mm min<sup>-1</sup>) and defined contained angle (180°). The average force required for this over the duration of the peeling operation is recorded, and provides a measure of the cohesive strength of the material under test. As already mentioned, average values for this peeling force should be less than 4N. There should be clear  
10 delamination and breakaway of the label material: in other words the label should break in two through the thickness of the film after an initial delamination step.

Preferably, the labelling material comprises a coextruded core layer of biaxially-oriented and voided HDPE between upper and lower skin layers, wherein the skin layers have a  
15 density of more than 0.6g cm<sup>-3</sup>, preferably more than 0.9g cm<sup>-3</sup>. The skin layers preferably have a thickness of not more than 2µm. Preferably, the skin layers consist of biaxially-oriented and substantially unvoided HDPE. The thickness of the core layer is preferably about 100µm.

20 Low-density synthetic paper as described above is easily converted into pressure-sensitive adhesive labels, unlike tamper-evident sheet materials produced from PVC or polystyrene, which tend to be brittle and difficult to handle.

The synthetic paper used in the present invention can be produced by generally known  
25 techniques, for example simultaneous biaxial orientation techniques as disclosed in British Patents Nos. 1374574 and 1442113 in combination with voiding and/or coextrusion techniques such as disclosed in British Patents Nos. 1470 372, 1490512 or 1492771, European Patent No. 470760B or European Patent Application No. 863177A, all of which are included by reference herein. The proportion of voids must be such as to  
30 produce the desired low base layer density and internal cohesive strength. Fillers, rubbers, antioxidants, lubricants, antistatic agents and other additives may be included in the sheet material, as is conventional in the synthetic paper art.

The term "high density polyethylene" as used herein refers to polymers and copolymers of ethylene with minor amounts of other  $\alpha$ -olefin monomers as is commonly understood in the industry and as described in the above-mentioned patent publications. The term is also used to refer to mixtures of high density polyethylenes.

5

Plastics substrates are generally impervious to materials such as printing inks. Thus, they tend to be unsuitable for direct use in ink-based printing processes because the ink has a tendency to remain at the surface of the substrate, without being absorbed. It is well known to modify the surface characteristics of a plastics substrate by applying an  
10 absorbent coating composition to the surface of the substrate. Such a coating composition comprises an absorbent filler, which renders the substrate more absorbent to ink, and a polymeric binder, which binds the filler to the surface of the substrate. Prior to application of the coating composition, the surface of the substrate is subjected to flame or corona discharge treatment such that the treated surface has a surface energy of  
15 about 47 dynes  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Alternatively, if no separate printable coating is to be applied, and the upper skin layer is to provide the printable surface, such a surface treatment can be carried out to provide a more polar surface and the required wettability to more readily accept inks and coatings. The surface may also be suitably textured or modified by the presence of a pigment and/or a filler, and suitably has a printability corresponding to a  
20 wettability of at least 40 dynes  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ .

When a printable surface coating is used, it may be formulated in a similar manner to aqueous coatings as commonly used in the paper industry and especially latex-based coatings. Of particular value in the present context, however, are the coatings described  
25 in British Patent Application No. 2177413A and European Patent Application No. 1055711A, which are included by reference herein.

Preferably such a printable coating is provided by the application of an aqueous system comprising a polymeric binder, an absorbent pigment and an antistatic agent. Typically  
30 the binder:pigment dry weight ratio is in the range 15:100 to 50:100, preferably 22:100 to 35:100, and the antistatic agent:pigment dry weight ratio is from 0.4:100 to 2.5:100. The antistatic agent may be, for example, sodium polyphosphate or another of the agents disclosed in British Patent Application No. 2177413A.

The polymeric binder may be in an aqueous or latex suspension, preferably a latex suspension, and should contain carboxyl groups on the polymer chain of at least one polymeric constituent. The binder may comprise a single polymer or a mixture of polymers. The binder may comprise, for example, starch or protein modified chemically  
5 or by physical addition of other polymeric species. Alternatively the binder may comprise a carboxylated styrene-butadiene copolymer, an acrylic polymer or copolymer, or a vinyl acetate polymer or copolymer. Preferably, the binder comprises a carboxylated styrene-butadiene copolymer.

10 The binder content of the aqueous coating composition may be chosen to suit individual requirements, for example, the stiffness of the coated product. Preferably, the binder content of the composition is in the range 15 to 30% by weight based on the binder plus aqueous phase, and more preferably in the range 20 to 25%.

15 The absorbent filler may be any dispersible solid but is preferably an inorganic filler or pigment such as calcium carbonate, china clay, or titanium dioxide.

The composition may also contain an insolubilizing agent, preferably a polyanionic zirconium compound, most preferably ammonium zirconium carbonate. If desired,  
20 security inclusions such as fluorescent pigments and/or coloured fibres can also be present.

The labelling material is coated with adhesive on its lower surface and is easily converted into labels in conventional manner. Any suitable adhesive may be used,  
25 including pressure sensitive adhesives, for example Revecryl\* 491, solvent based solutions including rubber based solutions (e.g. DURO-TAK\* 6179) or acrylic solutions (e.g. DURO-TAK\* 1057) and hot melt adhesives (e.g. DURO-TAK\* 4044). Water based emulsions based on acrylic copolymers and/or ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers and terpolymers, or silicone adhesives, can also be used. These are suggestions and are not  
30 limiting. Generally, the final bond to the substrate should be strong and high tack adhesives work well.

The invention will now be illustrated by the following examples, in which all parts and percentages are by weight unless otherwise specified, and all references to melt flow index (MFI) values are as measured by ASTM Method No. 1238.

## 5 Example 1

A synthetic paper comprising an extruded core layer and two upper and lower coextruded skin layers was first produced.

- 10 The core layer was derived from a compound (Mix A) consisting of a mixture of HDPE having an MFI of 0.33; particulate filler (CaCO<sub>3</sub>, TiO<sub>2</sub>); voiding agent (a pentaerythritol - maleic anhydride derivative of abietic acid) and processing aids, as follows:

**Mix A**

Component	wt %
Ampacet* 111096 60% CaCO <sub>3</sub> in HDPE	15.9
ExxonMobil HDPE Paxon* AL55-003	55.9
Ampacet* 111096 60% TiO <sub>2</sub> in HDPE	8.00
Nova Chemicals Polystyrene High Heat 1300	3.95
Omya Omyalene* G.200 88% CaCO <sub>3</sub> in LDPE	8.00
DRT Dertoline* DP 001 voiding agent	8.00
Ciba Geigy Irganox* B215 anti-oxidant	0.22

15

The two coextruded outer layers were each derived from a dry blend mixture of HDPE having an MFI of 0.33 and linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) having an MFI of 2.0, as follows:

**Mix B**

Component	wt %
ExxonMobil HDPE Paxon* AL55-003	75
ExxonMobil LLDPE LL-1002	25

20

Mix A was compounded at 210°C by a conventional extrusion, dicing and cooling process. This compound was introduced into the primary extruder of an in-line twin

extruder – distributor – sheeting die coextrusion arrangement. Mix B was introduced into a coextruder feeding the distributor. The sheeting die and distributor were of a conventional type enabling a three layer coextrudate to be produced continually, comprising a homogeneous layer of Mix B on each side of a layer of Mix A. The throughput of the in line primary/secondary extruders was arranged to be 650kg per hour from screw speeds of 22 and 33rpm respectively, with an exit temperature of 191°C. The throughput of the coextruder was 28kg per hour from a screw speed of 12 rpm with an exit temperature of 185°C. The output of the extruders was fed to the distribution block held at 210°C. The die lips were adjusted to 5mm and the sheeting die gave an extrudate of about 420mm wide. This composite sheet was then fed directly onto and around a set of cooling and conditioning rollers having the following temperatures:

ROLL 1	°C	54.0
ROLL 2	°C	76.0
ROLL 3	°C	77.0
ROLL 4	°C	90.0
COND ROLL 5	°C	118.0
COND. ROLL 6	°C	116.0
COND ROLL 7	°C	118.0
COND. ROLL 8	°C	121.0
COND. ROLL 9	°C	121.0
COND. ROLL 10	°C	121.0

The final conditioned composite sheet, which had an overall thickness of about 1000µm with a core thickness of 960µm and outer skin thicknesses of 20µm, was then fed into a simultaneous biaxial stretching apparatus of the type described and illustrated in British Patent No.1442113. The apparatus was arranged to produce a 4:1 stretch in each of the longitudinal or machine direction (MD) and transverse direction (TD). The stretching apparatus was provided with a 6-zoned oven: zones 1 and 2 provided preheat, zones 3 and 4 the stretching section and zones 5 and 6 the annealing section. The temperatures are given in the following table:

ZONE 1	°C	135.0±2
ZONE 2	°C	125.0±2
ZONE 3	°C	117.0±2
ZONE 4	°C	117.0±2
ZONE 5	°C	130.0
ZONE 6	°C	130.0



The composite plastics film thus produced was cooled, edge trimmed and passed through a corona discharge treatment unit such that the product had a surface energy of about 47 dynes  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Finally it was wound into reels approximately 1500 mm wide.

- 5 Typical properties measured for samples of synthetic paper film produced as described above are given in the following table:

Property	MD	TD
Tensile ( $\text{N/mm}^2$ )	39	30
Elongation (%)	100	79
Tear ( $\text{N/mm}$ )	50	76
Stiffness(Gurley)	64	60
Opacity	96	
Core Thickness ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	100	
Core density ( $\text{g cm}^{-3}$ )	0.50	

- 10 A printability coating was later applied to both surfaces of the film using an air-knife coater, and then dried. The approximate formulation of the coating was as follows:

	Parts by weight
Water	100
Acrylate dispersant	5
15 Ground calcium carbonate of which 90% of the particles are below $2\mu\text{m}$ particle size	100
Anionic wetting agent	2
Mixture of acrylonitrile acrylate styrene copolymer (50% solids content) and styrene/n-butanol copolymer (50% solids content) in the ratio 1:4	63
20 Ammonium zirconium carbonate	4

- 25 As already mentioned, the cohesive strength of the synthetic paper film (which provides a valuable predictor of tamper-evident character) is particularly important in this application.

Typical measured peeling force (cohesive strength) values for samples of  $50\text{g m}^{-2}$  synthetic paper film produced as described above and having  $4\text{g m}^{-2}$  printability coatings

on each surface (i.e. total  $58\text{g m}^{-2}$ ) are given in the following table. The measurement method was as described earlier in this specification, with peel speeds of 250 and  $500\text{mm min}^{-1}$ . The maximum measured peeling force (cohesive strength) during the peeling operation was also noted.

5

Peel Speed mm/min	Maximum Cohesive Strength (N)	Average Cohesive Strength (N)
250	$3.15 \pm 0.15$	$2.2 \pm 0.15$
500	$3.5 \pm 0.2$	$2.05 \pm 0.1$

It was observed that each sample broke away through the thickness of the substrate during the peeling operation. As explained earlier in this specification, achievement of this property is very significant in terms of a fully satisfactory tamper-evident effect.

When samples of synthetic paper film produced as described above were coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive laminated with release paper and die cut, the resulting labels could be easily adhered to glass containers but attempts at removal always left part of the label on the bottle, making fraudulent label transfer impossible.

## Example 2

The following mixture was compounded as in Mix A, Example 1.

20

Component	wt %
Ampacet 111096 60% $\text{CaCO}_3$ + $\text{TiO}_2$ in HDPE	19.06
ExxonMobil HDPE Paxon AL55-003	64.9
Nova Chemicals Polystyrene High Heat 1300	3.17
Omya Omyalene G.200 88% $\text{CaCO}_3$ in LDPE	6.34
DRT Dertoline DP 001(a pentaerythritol - maleic anhydride derivative of abietic acid)	6.34
Ciba Geigy Irganox B215 (anti oxidant)	0.19

As in Example 1, this compound was introduced into the primary extruder of a twin extruder – distributor – sheeting die coextrusion arrangement and a dry blend mixture of Exxon Mobil HDPE Paxon AL55-003 (MFI (ASTM 1238) = 0.33)(75%) and Exxon

Mobil LLDPE LL-1002 (MFI (ASTM 1238) = 2.0) (25%) (mix B) was introduced into a coextruder feeding the distributor. The throughput of the in line primary/secondary extruders was arranged to be 650kg per hour and the throughput of the coextruder was 28kg per hour. The output of the extruders was fed to the distribution block held at 210°C. The die lips were adjusted to 5mm and the sheeting die gave an extrudate of about 420mm wide. This composite sheet was formed into a biaxially-oriented sheet using the roller arrangement and stretcher conditions of Example 1.

The composite plastics film thus produced was cooled, edge trimmed and passed through a corona discharge treatment unit to give a treatment level of about 47dynes/cm. Finally it was wound into reels approximately 1500 mm wide.

The properties of the film are given in the following table:

Property	MD	TD
Tensile (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	35	32
Elongation (%)	130	100
Tear (N/mm)	62	69
Opacity	92	
Thickness (μm)	90	
Density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	0.57	

15

The substrate was coated to provide a printable surface, according to GB-A-2177413 and the European patent application EP-1055711-A2.

The surface cohesive strength for a product coated to give 4gsm per side and using the tape peel test described before is given in the table below:

20

Peel Speed mm/min	Maximum Surface Cohesive Strength (N)	Average Surface Cohesive Strength (N)
250	5.8 ±0.3	3.8 ±0.3

The peel action of the tape did not always rupture the product and as such this substrate was not as good as the material from Example 1 and it would therefore be more exacting in matching the adhesive of the final label to the substrate to be labeled, to provide good tamper-evident properties. Nevertheless, when this substrate was coated with a pressure sensitive adhesive laminated with release paper and die cut, the resulting labels could be easily adhered to glass containers but attempts at removal would always leave part of the label on the bottle, making complete label transfer impossible.

### Comparative Example 3

The following mixture was compounded as in Mix A, Example 1.

Component	wt %
Ampacet 111096 60% CaCO <sub>3</sub> + TiO <sub>2</sub> in HDPE	15.88
ExxonMobil HDPE Paxon AL55-003	70.76
Nova Chemicals Polystyrene High Heat 1300	2.64
Omya Omyalene G.200 88% CaCO <sub>3</sub> in LDPE	5.28
DRT Dertoline DP 001(a pentaerythritol - maleic anhydride derivative of abietic acid)	5.28
Ciba Geigy Irganox B215 (anti oxidant)	0.16

A biaxially-oriented sheet was formed as described in Examples 1 and 2 using the above mixture in place of Mix A and the same coextruding procedure with Mix B. After corona treatment the film had the following properties.

Property	MD	TD
Tensile (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	45	35
Elongation (%)	120	130
Tear (N/mm)	82	106
Opacity	94	
Thickness (μm)	100	
Density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	0.7	

The surface cohesive strength for a product coated to give 4gsm per side and using the tape peel test described before is given in the table below:

Peel Speed mm/min	Maximum Surface Cohesive Strength (N)	Average Surface Cohesive Strength (N)
250	7.4 ±0.3	7.0 ±0.3

- 5 The peel action of the tape did not rupture the product and as such this substrate was not suitable for the intended purpose.

The relationships between density, cohesive strength and tamper evident performance at a peel speed of 250mm/min for each of Examples 1, 2 and 3 are summarised in the following table:

Example	Density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	Maximum Cohesive Strength (N)	Average Cohesive Strength (N)	Performance Rating
1	0.50	3.15	2.2	Very good
2	0.57	5.8	3.8	Good
3	0.70	7.4	7.0	Poor

This demonstrates that there is a strong relationship between the density of the voided HDPE material and its cohesive strength. This is believed to be due to the fact that the density of the HDPE material depends on the number of voids created during the stretching and orientation process, a less dense material having a larger number of voids and therefore less cohesive strength. We have found that if the density is about 0.6g cm<sup>-3</sup> or less the labelling material has an average cohesive strength of about 4N or less, which provides good tamper-evident properties, whereas if the density is about 0.5g cm<sup>-3</sup> or less the cohesive strength is about 2.5N or less, which provides very good tamper-evident properties. On the other hand, if the density is 0.7g cm<sup>-3</sup> or more, as illustrated by comparative example 3, the material has a cohesive strength of about 7N or more, which provides poor (i.e. unsatisfactory) tamper-evident properties.

**Claims:**

1. Tamper-evident labelling material including a base layer of synthetic paper that is printable on its upper surface, and an adhesive layer on the lower surface of the base layer, characterised in that the base layer includes a layer of biaxially-oriented and voided high density polyethylene (HDPE) that has a density of not more than  $0.6\text{g cm}^{-3}$ .
2. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the layer of biaxially-oriented and voided HDPE has a density of not more than  $0.5\text{g cm}^{-3}$ .
3. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the mean cohesive strength of the labelling material is not more than about 4N.
4. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the mean cohesive strength of the labelling material is not more than about 3N.
5. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the base layer includes a coextruded core layer of biaxially-oriented and voided HDPE between upper and lower skin layers, wherein the skin layers have a density of more than  $0.6\text{g cm}^{-3}$ .
6. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in claim 5, wherein the skin layers have a density more than  $0.9\text{g cm}^{-3}$ .
7. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in claim 5 or 6 wherein the skin layers have a thickness of not more than  $2\mu\text{m}$ .
8. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in claim 5, 6 or 7 wherein the skin layers consist of biaxially-oriented and substantially unvoided HDPE.
9. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in any of claims 5 to 8, wherein the thickness of the core layer is about  $100\mu\text{m}$ .
10. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the base layer includes a printable layer comprising a polymeric binder, an absorbent pigment and an antistatic agent.
11. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in claim 10, wherein the binder: pigment dry weight ratio is in the range 15:100 to 50:100, preferably 22:100 to

35:100, and the antistatic agent: pigment dry weight ratio is from 0.4:100 to 2.5:100.

12. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in claim 11, wherein the binder comprises a carboxylated styrene-butadiene copolymer.
13. Tamper-evident labelling material as claimed in any preceding claim, substantially as herein described with reference to Example 1 or 2.
14. The use in labelling material, which includes a base layer of synthetic paper that is printable on its upper surface and an adhesive layer on its lower surface, for the purpose of imparting tamper-evident properties, of a layer of biaxially-oriented and voided high density polyethylene (HDPE), characterized in that the layer of biaxially-oriented and voided HDPE has a density of not more than  $0.6\text{g cm}^{-3}$ .
15. The use as claimed in claim 14, wherein the layer of biaxially-oriented and voided HDPE has a density of not more than  $0.5\text{g cm}^{-3}$ .
16. The use as claimed in claim 14 or claim 15, wherein the mean cohesive strength of the labelling material is not more than about 4N.
17. The use as claimed in claim 14 or claim 15, wherein the mean cohesive strength of the labelling material is not more than about 3N.
18. The use as claimed in any one of claims 14 to 17, wherein the base layer includes a coextruded core layer of biaxially-oriented and voided HDPE between upper and lower skin layers, wherein the skin layers have a density of more than  $0.6\text{g cm}^{-3}$ .
19. The use as claimed in claim 18, wherein the skin layers have a density more than  $0.9\text{g cm}^{-3}$ .
20. The use as claimed in claim 18 or claim 19, wherein the skin layers have a thickness of not more than  $2\mu\text{m}$ .
21. The use as claimed in claim 18, 19 or 20 wherein the skin layers consist of biaxially-oriented and substantially unvoided HDPE.
22. The use as claimed in any of claims 18 to 21, wherein the thickness of the core layer is about  $100\mu\text{m}$ .

## **Abstract**

### **SYNTHETIC PAPER LABEL**

A tamper-evident labelling material includes a base layer of synthetic paper that is printable on its upper surface, and an adhesive layer on the lower surface of the base layer. The base layer includes a layer of biaxially-oriented and voided high density polyethylene (HDPE) that has a density of not more than  $0.6\text{g cm}^{-3}$

H:\DOCS\CSC\UDL16-2\UDL16\_2\_FINAL.DOC

122904



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat Application No  
PCT/GB 03/02890

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 B32B27/32 G09F3/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B32B D21H G09F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 470 760 A (BXL PLASTICS LTD) 12 February 1992 (1992-02-12) cited in the application claims 1-12,36-39; examples 1-4 ---	1,2,14, 15
Y	EP 0 403 161 A (MOBIL OIL CORP) 19 December 1990 (1990-12-19) claims 1-19; figure 1; examples 1-3 ---	1,2,14, 15
A	US 5 405 692 A (WENG TUNG Y ET AL) 11 April 1995 (1995-04-11) the whole document ---	1-22
A	WO 98 32598 A (AVERY DENNISON CORP) 30 July 1998 (1998-07-30) the whole document --- -/--	1-22



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 November 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

25/11/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Karlsson, L

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internat<sup>l</sup> Application No  
PCT/GB 03/02890

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 521 479 A (OJI YUKA GOSEISHI KK) 7 January 1993 (1993-01-07) the whole document ---	1-22
A	US 5 026 592 A (JANOCHA SIEGFRIED ET AL) 25 June 1991 (1991-06-25) the whole document ---	1-22
A	EP 1 126 970 A (LINNEWIEL RON) 29 August 2001 (2001-08-29) the whole document ---	1-22
A	US 5 660 925 A (COOLEY JULIAN B ET AL) 26 August 1997 (1997-08-26) the whole document -----	1-22

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Internal Application No

PCT/GB 03/02890

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0470760	A	12-02-1992	AU 643548 B2	18-11-1993
			AU 8170791 A	13-02-1992
			CA 2048712 A1	10-02-1992
			DE 69126072 D1	19-06-1997
			DE 69126072 T2	28-08-1997
			EP 0470760 A2	12-02-1992
EP 0403161	A	19-12-1990	US 4931327 A	05-06-1990
			CA 2018245 A1	14-12-1990
			EP 0403161 A2	19-12-1990
			JP 3178436 A	02-08-1991
US 5405692	A	11-04-1995	US 5277971 A	11-01-1994
WO 9832598	A	30-07-1998	AU 734303 B2	07-06-2001
			AU 6024398 A	18-08-1998
			EP 0960020 A1	01-12-1999
			WO 9832598 A1	30-07-1998
EP 0521479	A	07-01-1993	JP 3142602 B2	07-03-2001
			JP 5008289 A	19-01-1993
			DE 69201918 D1	11-05-1995
			DE 69201918 T2	05-10-1995
			EP 0521479 A2	07-01-1993
			US 5332542 A	26-07-1994
US 5026592	A	25-06-1991	DE 3743791 A1	13-07-1989
			DE 3851042 D1	15-09-1994
			EP 0321843 A2	28-06-1989
			ES 2056885 T3	16-10-1994
			ZA 8809620 A	27-09-1989
EP 1126970	A	29-08-2001	AU 3727299 A	13-12-1999
			CA 2333041 A1	02-12-1999
			EP 1126970 A1	29-08-2001
			US 6447015 B1	10-09-2002
			WO 9961240 A1	02-12-1999
			ZA 200006851 A	22-02-2002
US 5660925	A	26-08-1997	WO 9721202 A1	12-06-1997